



P. 23(e)(1) and Permitting Notice to the Class dated February 3, 2022 (ECF 248) (the “Preliminary Approval Order”), due and adequate notice was directed to all Class Members, including individual notice to those Class Members who could be identified through reasonable effort, advising them of Lead Counsel’s request for attorneys’ fees and expenses and awards to Plaintiffs in connection with their representation of the Class, and of their right to object thereto, and a full and fair opportunity was accorded to Class Members to be heard with respect to the request for attorneys’ fees and expenses, and there were no objections to the request for attorneys’ fees and expenses.

4. The Court hereby awards Lead Counsel attorneys’ fees of 33-1/3% of the Settlement Amount, plus expenses in the amount of \$1,563,412.71, together with the interest earned on both amounts for the same time period and at the same rate as that earned on the Settlement Fund until paid. The Court finds that the amount of fees awarded is appropriate and that the amount of fees awarded is fair and reasonable under the “percentage-of-recovery” method.

5. In making this award of attorneys’ fees and expenses to be paid from the Settlement Fund, the Court has considered and found that:

(a) the Settlement has created a fund of \$63,000,000.00 in cash that has been funded into escrow under the Stipulation, and Class Members who submit acceptable Proof of Claim and Release forms will benefit from the Settlement that occurred because of the efforts of Lead Plaintiffs’ Counsel;

(b) the fee sought by Lead Counsel has been reviewed and approved as reasonable by Class Representatives, institutional investors that were all involved in overseeing the prosecution and resolution of the Litigation;

(c) over 184,000 copies of the Notice were mailed to potential Class Members and nominees stating that Lead Counsel would apply to the Court for an award of attorneys' fees on behalf of all Lead Plaintiffs' Counsel in an amount not to exceed 33-1/3% of the Settlement Amount, and expenses paid or incurred in connection with the institution, prosecution and resolution of the claims against Defendants, in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000.00, plus interest on both amounts at the same rate earned as the Settlement Fund. The Notice advised Class Members of their right to object to Lead Counsel's motion for attorneys' fees and expenses, and a full and fair opportunity was accorded to persons who are Class Members to be heard with respect to the motion. No objections to the fees and expenses requested by Lead Counsel have been received;

(d) Lead Plaintiffs' Counsel have conducted the Litigation and achieved the Settlement with skill, perseverance, and diligent advocacy;

(e) The Litigation involves complex factual and legal issues, and, in the absence of Settlement, would involve further lengthy proceedings with uncertain resolution if the case were to proceed to trial;

(f) Lead Plaintiffs' Counsel have pursued the Litigation on a contingent basis, having received no compensation during the Litigation, and any fee award has been contingent on the result achieved;

(g) Lead Plaintiffs' Counsel have devoted over 34,300 hours to this Litigation, with a lodestar value of approximately \$18.7 million, to achieve the Settlement;

(h) The amount of attorneys' fees is consistent with awards in similar cases and supported by public policy; and

(i) the amount of expenses awarded is fair and reasonable and these expenses were necessary for the prosecution and settlement of the Litigation.

6. The fees and expenses shall be allocated among Lead Plaintiffs' Counsel in a manner which, in Lead Counsel's good-faith judgment, reflects each such counsel's contribution to the institution, prosecution, and resolution of the Litigation.

7. Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §78u-4(a)(4), Class Representatives Plymouth County Retirement Association, Pembroke Pines Pension Fund for Firefighters and Police Officers, Central Laborers Pension Plan, and Gwinnett County Public Employees Retirement System are awarded \$7,087.95, \$5,715.68, \$8,866.50, and \$9,375.00, respectively, for their representation of the Class during the Litigation.

8. The awarded attorneys' fees and expenses and interest earned thereon shall immediately be paid to Lead Counsel subject to the terms, conditions, and obligations of the Stipulation, and in particular ¶6.2 thereof, which terms, conditions, and obligations are incorporated herein.

9. Any appeal or any challenge affecting the Court's approval of any attorneys' fee and expense application will in no way disturb or affect the finality of the Order and Final Judgment entered with respect to the Settlement.

10. The Court retains exclusive jurisdiction over the parties and Class Members for all matters relating to this Litigation, including the administration, interpretation, effectuation, or enforcement of the Stipulation and this Order.

11. If the Settlement is terminated or the Effective Date of the Settlement otherwise fails to occur, this Order will be rendered null and void to the extent provided by the Stipulation.

12. Therefore, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Lead Counsel's Motion for an Award of Attorneys' Fees and Awards to Plaintiffs Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §78u-4(a)(4) **(ECF 252)** is **GRANTED**.

DATED: June 10, 2022

s/Michael J. Davis

MICHAEL J. DAVIS

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT